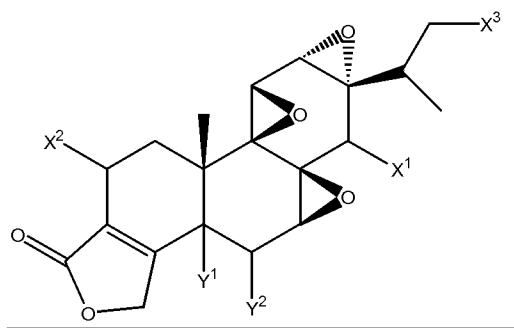


Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims, in which deleted text appears ~~struck through~~ or ~~[[double-bracketed]]~~ and inserted text appears underlined, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled herewith).

15. (Currently amended) A compound ~~as recited in claim 13, wherein~~ having the structure I:



where

X¹ is OR¹, where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C(=O)R², and C(=O)OR², where R² is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

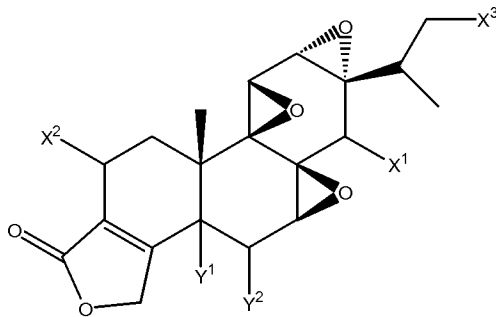
each of X² and X³ is hydrogen;

and where

Y¹ is hydrogen and Y² is cyano.

Claims 16-26 (Canceled herewith).

27. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a 5-hydroxy triptolide compound of formula I :



where

X^1 is OR^1 , where R^1 is selected from hydrogen, $C(=O)R^2$, and $C(=O)OR^2$, where R^2 is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

X^2 and X^3 are independently OR^1 or hydrogen, at least one of X^2 and X^3 being hydrogen;

$Y^1 = OH$; and $Y^2 = H$;

by reaction of a starting triptolide compound of formula I in which X^1 , X^2 and X^3 are as defined above, $Y^1 = H$, and $Y^2 = H$, with selenium dioxide.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen and $C(=O)R^2$, and R^2 is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, and benzyl.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, where R^1 is hydrogen.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein each of X^2 and X^3 is hydrogen, and said 5-hydroxy triptolide compound is 5 α -hydroxytriptolide.